GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2121
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2003
EXPENDITURE ON MANASAROVAR PILGRIMS
RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by the Union Government on the pilgrims who visited Kailash Manasarovar during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Union Government have enhanced the annual expenditure and facilities for these pilgrims; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA)

(a) In the year 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003, MEA has spent Rs. 34.03 lakh, Rs. 29.95 lakh and Rs. 33.64 lakh respectively.

(b)-(c): The Kailash Manasarovar Yatra, along the traditional route across Lipulekh Pass in Pithoragarh District of Uttaranchal, is coordinated by the Ministry of External Affairs and conducted with the assistance of various Central and State Government agencies. Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (KMVN) arranges board and lodging for Yatris on the Indian sideA Liaison Officer is attached to each batch of Yatris.

MEA provides Rs. 3,250/- per Yatri to KMVN to partially offset the expenditure incurred by the Yatris. Government provides free medical inspection and assistance, and security and escort cover upto Lipulekh Pass; insurance cover and communication links for the duration of the Yatra. Expenditure is also incurred to release advertisement for the Yatra in major national and regional newspapers and to provide V-Satellite phone to each Liaison Officer.